Polluting Units

3027. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "500 polluting units may receive closure notices by January 30" appearing in the 'Economic Times' New Delhi dated the 3rd January, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the details of units which have decided to set up treatment plants and have been given time till 31st December, 1992 and which were asked to furnish bank guarantee for 50 per cent of the amount needed to set up a pollution control unit; the Units which have been given time till 31st December, 1993, the Units which have been given closure notice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details in this regard are:

(i) An industry, operation or process which has commenced production on or before 16th May, 1981, and has shown adequate proof of at least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by December 31st, 1993.

(ii) An industry, operation or process which has commenced production after the 16th day of May, 1981 but before the 31st day of December, 1991, and has shown adequate proof of at least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by the 31st day of December, 1992.

(iii) According to the information provided by the States, there are 3094 large and medium scale polluting units in the 17 major sectors out of which 150 units have not initiated action for complying with the prescribed standards. The State Pollution Control Boards have been advised to issue notices to the recalcitrant units.

Joint Programme Pioneered by South-South Solidarity

3028. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the joint programme pioneered by South-South Solidarity with two Nepal NGOs, Gonosasthya Kendra and Voluntary Health Service Society, for a flood and health programme and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government are fully supporting and financing such NGO activities in India and in the Sub-Continent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Ecological Public Cell

3029. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Ecological Public cell has been set up; if so, the details thereof indicating the number of grievances received and disposed of respectively;